

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



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September 2016



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 9TH-15TH

Marion City Firefighters will be visiting schools during fire prevention week in order to reduce and prevent fire related injuries or deaths. The week of October 9-15, will be National Fire Prevention Week. This year's campaign will be **"Don't Wait - Check the Date."**

Why focus on smoke alarms three years in a row? Because NFPA's survey data shows that the public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms, which may put them at increased risk in the event of a home fire. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced.

As a result of those and related findings, they will be addressing smoke alarm replacement this year with a focus on these key messages: (1) Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years, (2) Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home. (3) To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm. If you didn't know that, you're not alone. An online questionnaire distributed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) showed that less than half (42 percent) of approximately 36,000 respondents did not know that a smoke alarm should be installed in each bedroom of the home.

Any questions regarding smoke detectors can try to be answered by contact City of Marion Fire Department at (843) 423-8602.

Randy Brown is city's employee of the Month



Building Maintenance Supervisor Randy Brown was selected as the City of Marion's July 2016 Employee of the Month.

Randy began working for the City of Marion in April 2016 and quickly earned the respect of his peers and the City's senior staff. He is responsible for overseeing the maintenance of all city buildings and facilities.

"The quality of Randy's work is exceptional. He has a strong work ethic and is always courteous to our residents and other City employees", said City Administrator Alan Ammons.

Randy is a lifelong resident of Marion County. He and his wife, Jeanne, live in Rains. They have five children and three grandchildren.

Mayor Bobby Davis and City Council recognized Randy Brown for his service and dedication to the City of Marion at the August 9th Council Meeting.



MAIN STREET COMMONS!



We're getting there...

It's been a long time coming, but the end is within sight! The Main Street Commons project is in the final stages of construction and soon will be an attractive and inviting place for residents and visitors alike to experience the charm of a small town's downtown commercial district. "The Swamp Fox" Gen. Francis Marion, is known for being revolutionary; we say this project is the start of a new revolution in the City of Marion, South Carolina. Many thanks from HMRA to the Marion County Healthcare Foundation and Anderson Brothers Bank for funding this project. A formal dedication is being planned for Friday evening, October 7, 2016. Save the date and look for details coming soon.



Come Play with Us

The City of Marion's annual Play Day will be held at Withlacoochee Park on Saturday, September 17, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Join the crowds for a fun day of outdoor activities. As part of Playful City USA status gained through Ka-boom.org we annually offer this opportunity to enjoy free outdoor play. Our focus is to have children swinging on the swings, sliding on the slides and enjoying playing in our parks.

Various groups are conducting tournaments and activities for our community. Come out and see which activity best suits you and your family.

COME OUT AND ENJOY "PLAY DAY 2016"

CITY NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month



Mr. & Mrs. Howard Lundy of 133 Boxwood Drive has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for August 2016. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. & Mrs. Lundy will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

- Mayor Bobby L. Davis**, (843) 423-5961, Ext. 21
- Alan Ammons**, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Pam Jones**, City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown**, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Ainsley Sanders**, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Ficik**, Personnel / Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Ann Jackson**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Dewayne Tennie**, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Cindy Barr**, Captain (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith**, Captain (843) 423-8616
- Tony Flowers**, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Chris McKenzie**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616

Mayor say thank you

I, along with City Council, sincerely thank Ms. Mary Dunbar and the Marion County Healthcare Foundation Board for approving a grant to make it possible for the trips to Brookgreen Gardens in Pawley's Island and the South Carolina State House for our children who attended in this year's summer camp children. We also thank Mrs. Missy Foster, manager of Walmart of Marion, for the grant we received to assist our children. Through their generosity this has helped change the lives of many of our children. We average over one hundred children on a daily basis and have had as many as one hundred and sixty children. The trips to Brookgreen Gardens, SC State House and Wild Water and Wheels were a real life change for some of these children.

Lastly, I along with City Council, the Citizens of Marion, and the surrounding community truly appreciate your involvement within our community. To all these wonderful people, I want to thank all of the volunteers who gave time from their busy schedule to help our children. I am extremely grateful for your sacrifices and I feel that I can speak the same for the parents and the children.

*Mayor Bobby L. Davis
City of Marion*

Mayor's Monthly Beautification Award



Mayor Davis presented the August Beautification Award to Ms. Dolly Boyer because of her hard work and dedication to the City of Marion at the council meeting on August 9th, in appreciation for helping maintain the beauty of the City of Marion. Ms. Boyer is a member of the Neighborhood Watch Committee.

A TEAM MARION SC NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

A-TEAM hosted National Night Out for the second year on August 2nd. Once again the event was a huge success. We started out with a walk thru the neighborhood. After the walk, team members, police and fellow citizens enjoyed hotdogs with all the trimmings followed by an abundance of homemade sweets. Games, face painting and live entertainment capped off the evening. The 88 attendees appreciated remarks from Mayor Davis. Several A-Team members were recognized with awards. While all the activities made for a wonderful evening, fellowship among neighbors of all ages and our police officers will be remembered for years to come. With all the difficulties, facing communities and law enforcement across the country, any opportunity for positive interaction is a plus for everyone. The only way we will have safer neighborhoods is through cooperation. It takes both citizens and police working together with a shared vision of the city we want to live in. Remember " We are our Neighbors Keepers". For more information about Neighborhood Watch call Dolly at 843-433-0941.

Town Hall meeting conducted



A Marion Town Hall meeting was conducted on August 15th with Mayor Bobby Davis welcoming guests and emceeding the events. Speaking was Columbia Mayor Stephen Benjamin, along with City of Columbia Police Chief W. H. "Skip" Holbrook. Mayor Lawson Battle, Mayor

Barbara Hopkins and Mayor William "Bo" McMillan, Captain Joe Graham, Representative Wayne George, Chief Dwayne Tennie, visiting Chiefs and Sheriff-elect Brian Wallace also attended.

The focus of the meeting was "The Relationship between the Community and Law Enforcement". Over one hundred citizens attended the meeting.

Mayor Davis stated that the meeting was very successful and hoped it will help bridge the gap between the Community and Law Enforcement.

Mosquito Population Prevention

- Tipping and tossing water-filled containers left around homes and businesses once a week can significantly reduce mosquito populations.
- Tip and toss water from garbage cans, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any containers where sprinklers or rain water has collected.
- Discard: old tires, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used. Empty & Clean: birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least twice a week.
- Protect: If you are going to be outside when mosquitoes are active cover up! Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing.



Each month there is a Marion Foodie meeting and a Marion Film Club meeting, sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County. Call Janine Jordan at (843) 289-5054 or email artcounciljj@att.net for information.

September 5th - Monday, Labor Day Holiday. City offices closed.

September 7th - Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine hosted by **HMRA**, 103 E. Dozier Street. Come and let HMRA share with you about their plans for the new Common Market and things that are happening in downtown Marion.

September 8th - Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

September 17th - Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., City of Marion's **PLAY DAY** at Withlacoochee Park. **COME PLAY WITH US!!! FUN, FUN, FUN AND MORE FUN !!** For more information contact Marion Recreation Department at (843) 423-5410.

September 20th - Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **United Fund of Marion County Annual Gala**, at Woodhaven Restaurant. Call Judy Stanton for more information at (843) 423-3411.

September 24th - Friday, Jebb Mac Band will be at Anderson Brothers Bank parking lot., Mullins SC. Friday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The band does a variety of music. For more information email Holly Jackson at hjackson@mullinssc.us; (843) 464-9583.

September 23rd - 24th, Friday & Saturday, Inaugural Golden Leaf Festival BBQ Cook-off. Anderson Brothers Bank parking lot, Mullins SC. Friday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more information email Holly Jackson at hjackson@mullinssc.us; (843) 464-9583 or Jim Bain at jebain202@gmail.com; (843) 340-3410.

September 24th - Saturday, 10:00 A.M. Golden Leaf Festival, Mullins' Smith Haven Park, Parade is on Main Street, with crafts, food vendors and more. A day filled with family and fun. For more information email scpumpkin@aol.com or vmspyce12@aol.com.

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Safety Checkpoints

The City of Marion Police Department will be conducting DUI Sobriety and Traffic Safety checkpoints within the city limits of Marion throughout the month of September. All checkpoints will be conducted at various locations within the city limits of Marion.



Good luck to all learners, teachers and parents during the 2016 school calendar. Let us work together to make this a successful year of learning.

From Mayor Bobby L. Davis, City Council, City Administrator and the citizens of Marion.

Good Morning...HORACE MANN INSURANCE!

Submitted by Kathy Stedman for HMRA

Just as Horace Mann, the "Father of American Public School Education" sought to advance and protect the interests and well-being of America's students in the mid 1800's, David Stanley and his associates, Crystal Ratley and Megan Ratley, seek to advance and protect the interests and well-being of America's educators in today's society. Horace Mann Insurance was founded in 1945 by two educators in Springfield, Illinois, under the original name of the Illinois Education Association Mutual Insurance Company. These educators believed that teachers deserved affordable auto insurance.

Fast forward nearly seventy some odd years and Horace Mann Insurance is the largest, national insurance company dedicated to serving America's educators and their States, with lifelong financial well-being through personalized service, advice, and a full range of insurance and financial options to include auto, homeowners and life insurance, retirement annuities, and other financial opportunities. Horace Mann Insurance also proudly promotes our nation's educators through various recognition programs and supports classroom funding opportunities through DonorsChoose.org



Mr. Ricky Blum (1948-2016), Marion native and former teacher at Marion High School, opened the Horace Mann Insurance Agency here in Marion a little over 30 years ago. Upon his retirement five years ago, Ricky and David Stanley worked out the details for a business transfer, and in August of 2015, David moved his company, David Stanley & Associates, LLC to 609 N. Main Street in downtown Marion. As David noted, "I chose this site primarily due to its central downtown location amidst the history that is Marion".

Today, David, Crystal and Megan consider it both an honor and a privilege to serve the educators of Marion, Dillon, Williamsburg and Georgetown Counties. They invite you to call (843 423-3200) or come by personally Monday- Thursday 9:00-5:00 and Friday 9:00-4:00. They will gladly take the time to discuss the many services Horace Mann Insurance has to offer, and to acquaint you with their teacher recognition and Donors Choose programs. David and his associates are proud to be affiliated with a company "Founded by Educators for Educators" and are committed to providing quality service in a courteous and professional manner.



Marion Chamber ribbon-cutting Ceremony



The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for Craig Martin, CPA on Wednesday, August 10 at Mr. Martin moved his business and acquired the CPA firm of Jim Belous. He has relocated to 207 North Tom Gasque Avenue. Marion Chamber President Kelli Noland and City Administrator Alan Ammons welcomed Mr. Martin to his new location as well as family and friends.

REMEMBER:

Historic Marion is a great place to visit, shop, dine and live. Visit the City of Marion online at www.marionsc.gov and on Facebook under City of Marion, South Carolina.

Questions about your water or sewer bill?
Call the Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority at (843) 765-4539 or visit them at their new location **510 Supply Rd, Marion SC 29574**

.....RECREATIONAL CORNER

Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m. at Watsonia Recreation. Bingo is FREE of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.

Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics has resumed and there are still some spots for newcomers. Classes are on Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The instructor is Mrs. Anna Boatwright. All classes are FREE, but donations are appreciated to help defer cost of the class. If you haven't participated before, please come out and register at the Marion Recreation Department.

City's Playgrounds

The following City of Marion playgrounds provide free fun and are open to the public:

Withlacoochee Park

Withlacoochee Ave - This park has a walking track and playground equipment. This site holds Marion's Tennis Courts.

Grice's Recreation Center

603 Gurley Street - The playground has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and is near the walking track.

Tilghman Park

409 Montgomery Street - It also has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.

City rentals available

Need a place to have your class reunion, family reunion, church social, or to have a party? We have the perfect location for you, whether an outdoor or indoor event from our picnic shelter or our recreation and fine arts center. Anyone interested in these locations for their events should call Cheryl Askins, 423-5410 for availability.

Ping Pong Club

Don't forget that Marion Recreation holds a Ping Pong Club every Monday & Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. You can come by on one of these days and freshen up on your ping pong skills, watch some games or learn how to play. For details, call 423-5410.

City's Summer Camp Educational Trips

The City of Marion free Summer Camp, that started on June 6 and ran through August 12, has come to a close. Few of the more than 100 participants are shown getting ready to enjoy a day an educational day at SC State Capital in Columbia, and Brookgreen Gardens on the group's many field trips. The weekday camp ran from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and offered such activities as swimming and water fun, arts and crafts, sports, field trips, games, music and more. Children from five years old to 15 participated. Additional photos from activities are at City Hall. City employees, volunteers' and Urban League worked together to offer and run the summer camp based in Grice's Recreation Center.

Photos From Summer Camp 2016



Having fun at Wild Water & Wheels

Educational day at Brookgreen Gardens. June 22, 2016 What an awesome experience. We had a wonderful time and learned a lot.

SC State Capital July 19, 2016

On the way to see where our Senator Kent Williams sits.